

LONG BEACH BRIDGE

— THE FRIENDLIEST BRIDGE CLUB —

MEET THE MASTERS



Bill McClean

Often wearing a winners T-shirt from a tournament or his motorcycle jacket, Bill McClean patiently sits at a table in the club ready to play with a regular partner or fill-in. He explained, "I enjoy playing with different people. I'm always looking for a steady partner to play with."

Bill has been playing bridge since 1958. After 21 months in the Navy, he came home to Pasadena. Needing to borrow his bridge-teacher aunt's car, he first had to drive her to her bridge games. He drove, was invited to watch one game, and started playing the next time.

In the 1960's Bill had his four

Continued on Page 5

TABLE TALK

EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2021

In-Person Games

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------|------|
| Monday | 12:30 p.m. | Open* | \$10 |
| Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. | 0-99 | \$5 |
| Tuesday | 12:30 p.m. | Open* | \$10 |
| Wednesday | 12:30 p.m. | Open* | \$10 |
| Thursday | 12:30 p.m. | Open* | \$10 |
| Friday | 12:30 p.m. | Open* | \$10 |
| Saturday | 12:30 p.m. | Open* | \$10 |

* NLM games possible, if enough players participate.

Internal Fund Games, September 6-11 Extra \$2

Club Championship-Rated Games. September 13-25

BBO VIRTUAL GAMES

All-Western – 99ers "Nite Club" Monday-Thursday

Competitive/ACBL Virtual Clubs, Search for VACB905265.

Select 0-99 or 0-20 All-Western 99er NiteClub

- 6:20 p.m. 19ers.
- 6:30 p.m. 99ers. (0-20 players are welcome too!)
- 8:00ish Zoom "Post-Mortem" for both games



Alliance Bridge Club schedule available at
www.alliancebridgeclub.com

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LONG BEACH, CA 90804
562.498.8113

EMAIL: MANAGER@LONGBEACHBRIDGE.COM

WWW.LONGBEACHBRIDGE.COM

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM: LONGBEACHBRIDGE



New! Online Intro to Bridge Course Reserve your seat now!

Are you ready to learn how to play? Presenting Intro to Bridge, a new interactive online course from the American Contract Bridge League.

Each 90-minute lesson – 10 in all – features hands-on learning with plenty of practice for your new skills. You can expect to begin playing shortly into the first lesson.

10 Lessons for just \$50 and includes a free 90-day trial of the Shark Bridge app.

New courses starting soon! See schedule below. (Note: the first lesson will last two hours, and the remaining lessons are 90 minutes each.)

- Tuesdays beginning September 7, 10:00 a.m. Pacific
- Wednesdays beginning September 8, 10:00 a.m. Pacific
- Thursdays beginning September 9, 3:30 p.m. Pacific
- Saturdays beginning September 18, 8:00 a.m. Pacific
- Mondays beginning September 20, 1:00 p.m. Pacific
- Mondays beginning September 20, 3:30 p.m. Pacific
- Tuesdays beginning September 21, 3:30 p.m. Pacific
- Wednesdays beginning September 29, 4:00 p.m. Pacific
- Thursdays beginning September 30, 10:00 a.m. Pacific
- Thursdays beginning September 30, 1:00 p.m. Pacific
- Fridays beginning October 1, 1 p.m. 10:00 a.m. Pacific

To register: <https://my.acbl.org/events/learn-bridge>

A Note From Our Club Manager, Sharon Biederman

Although in-person attendance is down 50% from pre-pandemic levels, *we are still able to pay our bills.*

Thank you to the players, volunteers, teachers and directors who support the club by paying to play. Long Beach Bridge Center also receives revenues from ACBL, Alliance and the All-Western 99ers Nite Club.

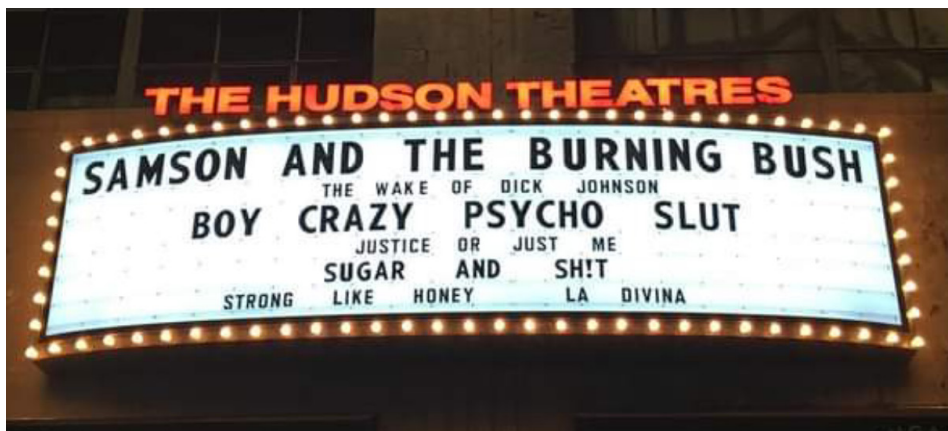
WHO IS THIS LITTLE DARLING?

This month's little darling loves his wheels. Go to our Facebook page - Long Beach Bridge for the answer. Were you a cute kid? Of course you were! Be the next little darling. Send photos to: ardeaux1@gmail.com.



Last month's little darling:
Jan Van Lierop





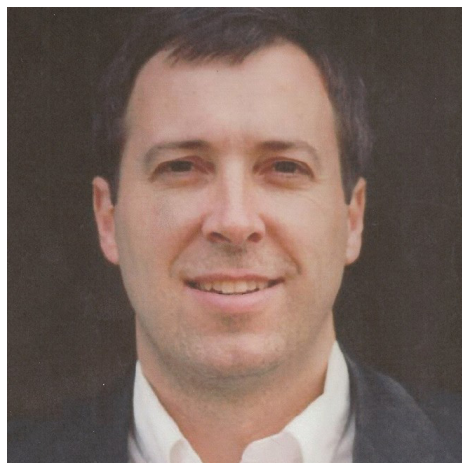
RALPH BRUNSON'S SAMSON HEADLINES HOLLYWOOD FRINGE FESTIVAL

Ralph Brunson's musical *Samson and the Burning Bush* was selected to participate in Hollywood Fringe Festival. These festivals exist throughout the world as havens for underground and emerging arts scenes.

Samson was performed 6 days in August. This "farce to be reckoned with" was a delightful retelling of the biblical tale of Samson and Dalia. The show was filled with sweet songs, snappy repartee, and dance numbers, not to mention some interesting charac-

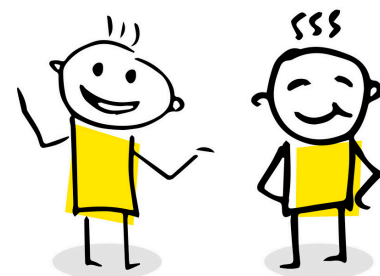
ters such as an immigrant drag queen hiding from ICE. Best wishes to Ralph as he furthers his musical career.

by Ardis Laine



ATTENTION: NEWCOMERS, NON-LIFE MASTERS, AND NERVOUS PLAYERS

Not ready to swim with the (card) sharks? Looking for a slower game with fewer boards? Ask Sharon Biederman or the daily director to create a limited game for your group. We need at least 8 players to create this section. Bring friends, have fun and play bridge!



Need a Partner?

Let Susan Bibby and Colleen Gardner help you. Email them at susanbibby@gmail.com or novcol@me.com (Colleen.)



October Issue Will Be Delivered Late

Your October Table Talk will arrive during the week of 4 October. Our editor is taking some time off. This pandemic has been exhausting.

We want your stories!



Tell us the tale of your path to Life Master. What are you doing to survive

the pandemic? Are you celebrating a milestone? Send an email to Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com or call/text at 562-254-0099



Lee Korich
Junior Master



Leo Dittmore
Regional Master



John Hand
Gold Life Master



August Status Changes

Junior Master
Regional Master
Gold Life Master

Lee Korich
Leo Dittmore
John Hand



SEPTEMBER CLASSES



**Advancing
Player Work-
shop**
**Teacher: Rob
Preece**
**Mondays 9:30
-11:30 a.m.**



OLLI Registration starts
Monday, Sept. 13 9:00 a.m. -
on-line
Helpline 562-985-2389

Bridge 1 - Beginning
For new and returning play-
ers. Learn to play bridge the
modern way. Topics include
intro to bridge, opening a
major, opening a minor, no
trump, Stayman, transfers,
opening leads, attitude, and
more.



Instructor:
Hank Dunbar

Tuesdays,
October 5 -
November 16

Continued from Page 1

children. Family obligations left little time to play bridge that decade. Today, his daughter and two of his four grandkids live nearby.

In the 1970's Bill started playing bridge again at clubs throughout Southern

California. Living in Pacific Palisades for 22 years, he played in Long Beach periodically. Two years ago, he moved to this area and became a regular at our club. Bill became a Life Master and a Bronze Life Master in 1994, achieving both at the same time due to needing that last gold. Today he has 4,611.79 masterpoints, currently the sixth highest in the unit.

Bill's advice is, "Develop consistent partnerships. Concentration is also very important. You must remember what cards have been played." He has partnered with Betty Curtis for 22 years—playing at nationals in Atlanta and three times in Hawaii at a sectional, regional, and national tournament. He also developed a good partnership with David Chesner who would only play at clubs and not tournaments, so Bill started signing up to fill-in at tournaments. One partner he won't forget is John Fox, a top pro at the time, with whom he played as a fill-in at a Long Beach club game. Bill added, "John was a great player and a big guy, and he would doze off between hands."

Bill explained, "Some people just play bridge—win, lose or draw. Me, I'm too serious. I've made a lot of money at bridge over the years." He recalled one time at the Long Beach Regional where he was a fill-in for the second half of a team game. Down 15 IMP's, they came back and won! Bill added, "One of them then invited me to play in Hawaii for 10 days,

all expenses paid. One game was by invitation only at a big house with gourmet food and lots of desserts." Another memorable hand for Bill was playing against Marjorie Michelin and her pro partner. After Bill's partner lead against a 4-spades contract, the pro put down his hand and said "down five." They had ended up in a bad 3-0 misfit.

In addition to bridge, Bill enjoys motorcycle riding. Despite three accidents and two totaled bikes, he said, "I love to ride and still want to." His most serious was 10-15 years ago on the way to Las Vegas when his motorcycle was totaled in a hit-and-run accident. The bike went down, Bill rolled over three times, and still smiled at the paramedics when they arrived. Instead of playing at the penny slots, he spent a week in the hospital. He last renewed his motorcycle license three years ago but plans to do so again in the next two years, so maybe we'll see—or hear—him arriving at the club on his bike.

His BBO name of wildbillM fits him. He loves to bid and plays NT whenever possible noting, "I don't waste my time on the minors." During the pandemic, he and Chuck Laine started playing online and continue doing so four or five mornings a week.

Bill's concluding observation about bridge is that "there is nothing else." Join him at the bridge table. You may even be partnered with him one day.

by Lillian Slater



Featuring Our Fill-In's Fred Willbanks

Say thank you to Fred Willbanks—our frequent, flexible, and friendly fill-in at the club. On average he plays three or four times a week but has played up to six times.

Fred has three kids. As a family they always played a lot of games, especially card games such as Hearts. He taught himself bridge by reading the bridge columns. Eventually, he discovered Long Beach Bridge where he has been playing for 23 years. After taking lessons from George Welsh, he helped around the club including filling in to complete tables.

Fred and his wife used to be bridge partners but decided “spouses do better when they don’t play together.” He occasionally plays at the club with one of his daughters, Julie Weinstein. You can tell they’re related because they both have those brilliant blue eyes.

His bridge advice is “Be nice to everyone. Try as hard as you can, and don’t chew out your partner.” Fred follows all these principles while playing with a wide variety of partners, some of whom he meets only minutes before the game.

Fred can be easily spotted with his colorful, and often themed, shirts that carefully coordinated socks. One of his daughters makes many of his shirts because “I like them with two pockets.” Fred and his wife are square dancers so she knows how to bedazzle them. He laughingly added, “In a four-bedroom house, my wife and I still don’t have enough closet space.”

Another love of Fred’s is music. On Monday nights pre-pandemic, he could be found at Curley’s Café’s in Signal Hill enjoying their New Orleans jazz sessions where different people playing different instruments would stop by and jam. One of Fred’s grandsons has played the clarinet since junior high and often participated in these sessions. During the pandemic, Fred and his wife started hosting these gatherings in their front yard almost every other Sunday.

Fred describes himself as “a God-fearing, patriotic family man.” In case you haven’t noticed, he always pays his card fees, even when he’s been called to fill in.

Fred, thanks again! You make our bridge games more enjoyable—and competitive!

by Lillian Slater



We Need Your Help!

Rachel Lantz turns 103 on
October 7th

Let’s celebrate this milestone by showering her with birthday cards:

Rachel Lantz
5701 Gillingham Circle
Westminster, CA 92683

Rachel said, “Don’t keep complimenting me on how old I am. That’s like saying—Wow, I can’t believe you’re still breathing. Instead, let’s just celebrate each other. We’re sharing the same journey on this planet together.”

TABLE TALK

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Editor | Ardie Laine |
| Contributors | Lillian Slater |

Article Submissions
We welcome articles, ideas and photos pertaining to our club. We reserve the right to revise submissions. Contact Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com